Eric Heiligenstein, M.D. was born and raised in southern Illinois. He graduated from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana and attended medical school at Southern Illinois University. Upon receiving his medical degree in 1980 he entered a Pediatric residency at Bowman Grey School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. After completing training in 1983 he began a Psychiatry residency at the New York Hospital, Westchester Division in White Plains, New York. Following adult training he entered a Child Psychiatry fellowship at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. During the course of residency and fellowship, Dr. Heiligenstein became board certified in all three disciplines.

Following training, Dr. Heiligenstein was Head of Pediatric Psychiatry at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, New York. Drawn back to the upper Midwest by wholesome values and exceptional cross-country skiing, he has been Clinical Director of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin Health Services since 1993. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and an Associate of the University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention. Dr. Heiligenstein specializes in the overlap between tobacco use and psychiatric disorders. He is also actively involved in integrating tobacco prevention and intervention into mental health practices.

Dr. Heiligenstein lives in Madison, Wisconsin with his wife, 2 daughters, and too many pairs of skis to count.